

PHO 683817

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 7 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 1 1978SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mariposa Grove Museum

AND/OR COMMON

Grove Museum

## 2 LOCATION

SE of Mariposa Grove

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Mariposa Grove of Big Trees

CITY, TOWN

Mariposa

Yosemite National Park

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifteenth

COUNTY

Mariposa

CODE

043

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

## 4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administration Building/National Park Service

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

STATE

California

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Buildings Inventory

DATE

1961

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Yosemite National Park

CITY, TOWN

STATE

California

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mariposa Grove Museum is a one-story log structure measuring 20' x 45' and is divided into two rooms. It has a low pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles and lapped with a 24" exposure. The cabin is built of peeled sugar pine logs laid in alternating tiers and interlocked at the corners, and at the point where the partition wall intersects with the exterior walls, with a "V" notch joint. The horizontal spaces between the logs are chinked with tight fitting split log wedges. A plank deck, 45' x 12', extends along the southwest side of the building. An exterior chimney is located on the southeast end of the cabin; it is made of granite in a coursed rubble pattern. The southwest side of the cabin has three windows, the northeast side has two, they are double hung, 6 x 6. There are three doors on the building, two on the southwest, one on the northeast, these are made of vertical boards, decorated with large false strap hinges of unpainted iron.

The interior is dominated by the fireplace of rough dressed granite in the form of a segmented arch. It has doweled, random width oak flooring. The primary decorative element of the design of the cabin is the hand crafted furniture. There are massive sequoia wood tables and benches, hand-planed and polished, with carved Indian motifs which are stylized and two-dimensional. The carving is a very simple expression of the Art Deco style.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1864, 1881, 1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT National Park Service (1930)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mariposa Grove Museum is of regional significance in the areas of exploration/settlement and social/humanitarian. Although less than 50 years old, the museum maintains the historic integrity of a "shelter in the grove" extant since the earliest designation of the area as a public park. The log cabin building in The Mariposa Grove of Big Trees was built in 1930 yet had its genesis almost as long ago as when Galen Clark first sighted the giant sequoias in 1857. In succession, three cabins were erected on approximately the same site, and the present one is the third materialization of Clark's idea of a "guardians hospice" in the upper grove. The museum possesses architectural significance at the local level. The present museum building continues the tradition established by Clark and the State of California. In a very limited sense, the building is a reconstruction, because it is a replacement for an earlier building. While it is roughly the same size and form as the preceeding building, there was no attempt to accurately duplicate the structure. The museum possesses architectural integrity which satisfies the criteria as an expression of the Rustic style, combined with several minor elements of the Art Deco style. The building's importance lies in its simplicity of design and materials and in the high degree of hand-craftsmanship exhibited in its construction. Integral with the building in design and significance is the fine, hand-crafted furniture.

Galen Clark built the first shelter--a rough one room cabin--in the Upper Grove in May, 1864. He had recently been appointed the first guardian of the "Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grant", and erected the cabin as an office/information center to assist visitors. Dr. Henry Bellows attached the name "Galen's Hospice" to the cabin in June, 1864, after his party gained shelter there from a storm. In 1881, the State of California replaced the ramshackle, though well known hospice, with a new one room cabin "for the comfort and convenience of the visitor." Another room was added in 1902 to serve as the office for the current guardian. In the Yosemite Superintendents Reports of the 1920's, the deteriorating condition of the State building is noted, as well as its international fame achieved through photographs, postcards, and remembrances of Yosemite tourists that recorded the impression made by the small structure amidst the giant trees. By 1930, a decision was reached to replace the unstable log cabin with a new structure to serve as the Mariposa Grove Museum. The exhibits are devoted exclusively to the story of the Big Trees, hence the cabin and its furnishings were designed to harmonize with the surrounding sequoias. The massive furniture was hewed by hand from a Big Tree that had fallen in the lower grove.

Today the Grove Museum continues to function as an interpretive center as well as a rest area for visitors arriving by tram or on foot.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sargent, Shirley Galen Clark: Yosemite Guardian. San Francisco, Sierra Club, 1964  
Yosemite Nature Notes V. 7, June 1932 p. 4-5  
Report of the Commissioners to Manage Yosemite Valley & the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees (1885-1886) p. 10, Yosemite Research Library  
Superintendent Annual Reports, Yosemite National Park, 1928 & 1930, Yosemite Research Library

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 2 7 0 3 4 9 4 1 5 4 8 6 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                          
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                          
D                          
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*See photo in post*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Leslie Starr Hart, Cultural Resources Specialist

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

DATE

9/75

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet, Box 25287

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION JUL 17 1978

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

*Knox Mellon*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

*Actg. Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources*

DATE

*8/9/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles H. Haring*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*12-1-78*

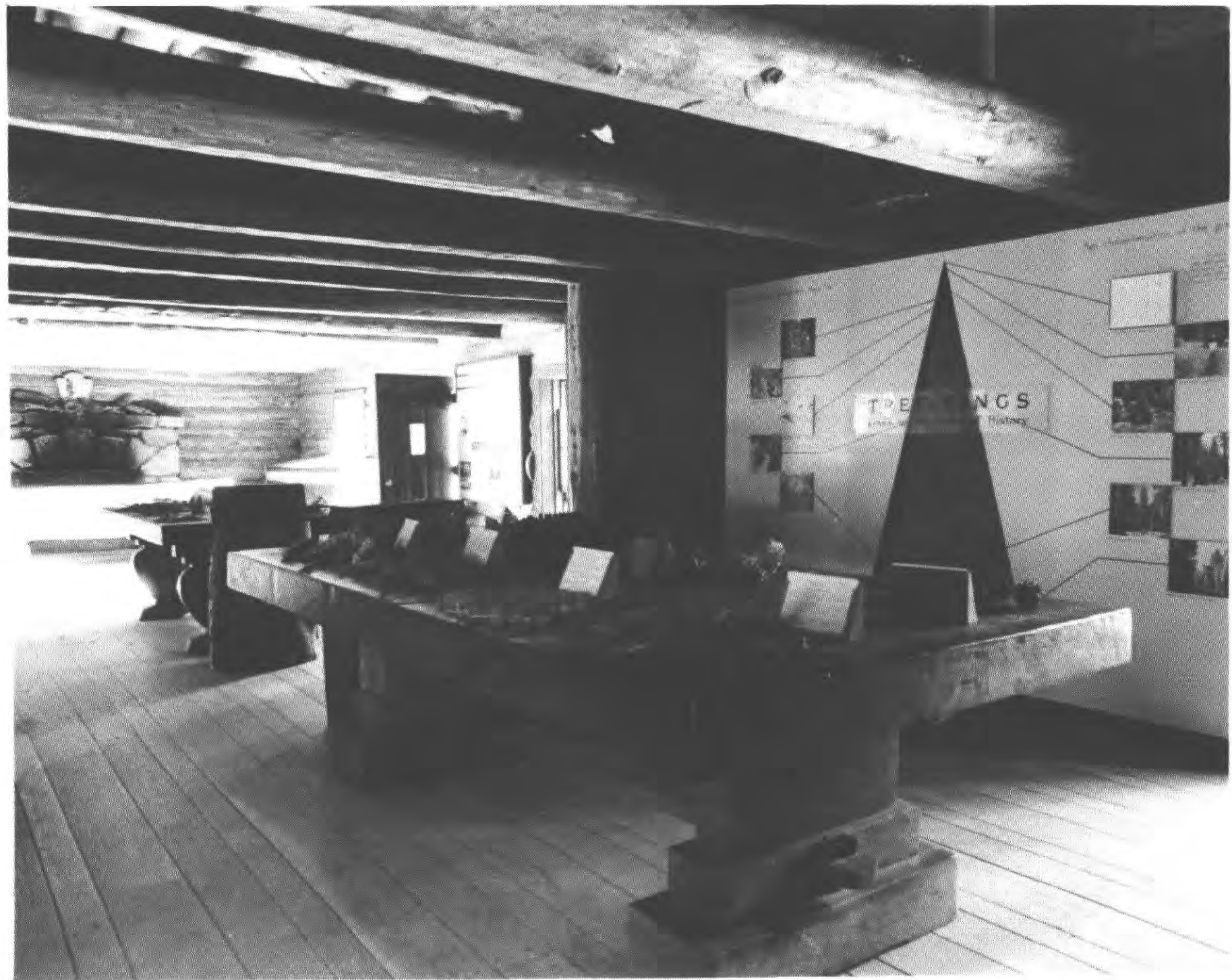
ATTEST:

*W. Ray Luce*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*for* *11-24-78*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

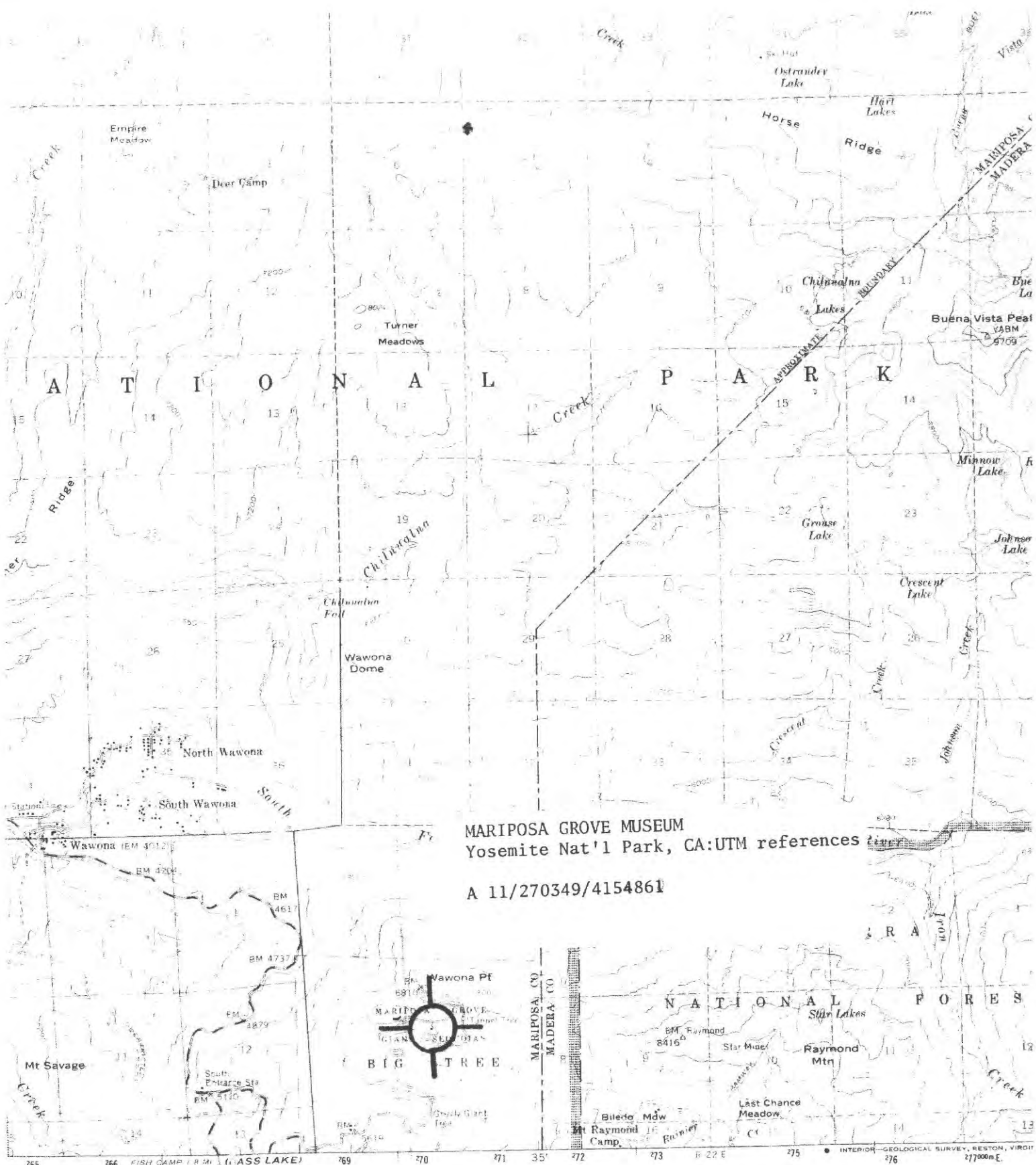
*11-24-78*



MACIUSA GROVE MUSEUM PHOTO + DEC 1 1978



MARIPOSA GROVE MUSEUM PHOTO #1 DEC 1 1970



MARIPOSA GROVE MUSEUM  
Yosemite Nat'l Park, CA:UTM references

A 11/270349/4154861



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	Light-duty
Medium duty	Unimproved

RECEIVED SEP 7 1978

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park